The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

EXHIBITION FOCUSES ON MAJOR FRENCH PAINTING

EXHIBITION	**A Painting in Focus: Nicolas Poussin's *Holy Family on the Steps***
DATES	Nov. 14, 1999–Jan. 23, 2000
VENUE	The Cleveland Museum of Art, exclusively.
DESCRIPTION	Nicolas Poussin's ***Holy Family on the Steps*** (1648) is universally considered an icon of 17th-century French art and the pinnacle of the artist's refined classical style. CMA purchased this painting in 1981. The exhibition will focus on the genesis, style, subject, and technical aspects of this important painting. Included among loans from other American and European collections will be preparatory drawings as well as copies after the painting, including the well-known copy in the National Gallery of Art, Washington (once considered by some scholars to be Poussin's original). This will be the first opportunity for most scholars and the general public to see the Washington and Cleveland paintings side by side. Four other masterpieces by Poussin that developed the Holy Family theme will show its importance in Poussin's career. Also included will be x-radiographs, published in 1982, that proved that CMA's painting was the original. This is the second in a series of "focus" exhibitions highlighting major works in the CMA collection.
CURATOR	Diane De Grazia, CMA's Clara T. Rankin Chief Curator, Curator of Paintings, and Curator of Drawings.
PUBLICATION	The 1999 edition of *Cleveland Studies* will be devoted to the Poussin painting. It will include essays by Dr. De Grazia, by CMA painting conservator Marcia Steele, and by Richard Verdi, Poussin expert and director of the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham.
ACKNOW-LEDGEMENTS	The Poussin exhibition is sponsored by the Florence Gould Foundation and by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.
PROGRAMS	A symposium will take place at the museum on November 19–20, 1999, in conjunction with the Poussin exhibition.
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